

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's reconsideration of previous rejections and indication that said rejections have been overcome.

A new rejection of claims 1-2 and 10 has been issued under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Carus (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,268), (hereinafter referenced as "Carus '268"). Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the scope of Applicant's invention and to incorporate elements previously found in claim 10. The probabilistic breakpoint analysis is now more specifically defined in the claim as, "assigning weights to the breakpoints in the natural language input." The weights may then be used to determine an order in which the substrings of the natural language inputs can be traversed for identifying linkable components. (See for example, paragraphs 53 and 54 of the present application).

Applicant respectfully submits that his invention as claimed is neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by Carus '268. Carus '268 does not assign weights to breakpoints nor does it disclose using weights to determine an order for traversing substrings. Carus '268 gets right down to the task of identifying linkable components. Each transition, according to Carus '268, is identified as a link, a breakpoint or an unknown. (Col. 5, l. 62-65). Carus '268 goes through two or more levels of analysis to reduce the number of unknown transitions. According to Carus '268 and its application of the statistical analysis module, "a character transition tag associated with the input character stream can be set when a sequence of characters in the input text match an entry in the character-transition table." (col. 6, lines 54-57). Thus, this statistical analysis in Carus '268 either finds a match or not. There is no disclosure, suggestion or teaching of the assignment of weights to the transitions. All the unknown transitions are equally identified as simply unknown. Applicant's invention which includes the assignment of weights and the use of those weights in traversing substrings is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Carus '268. For these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom should be allowed.

New claims 11-15 more particularly recite the various methods for assigning weights taught in Applicant's invention. Support for these claims is more specifically found in the original application at paragraph 50-52. Carus '268 does not even disclose

assigning weights to breakpoints and thus provides absolutely no suggestion of these particular methods set forth in claims 11-15. For these additional reasons, each of claims 11-15 should be allowed.

For all of the above stated reasons, Applicant submits that all claims pending in the present application are allowable over the art of record and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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